All communications should be addressed to :
THE DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN,
BOX 1433J, G.P.O., ADELAIDE
TELEPHONE: 23 9911

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

SIXTH FLOOR,
PRUDENTIAL BUILDING,
195 NORTH TERRACE,
ADELAIDE

In reply quote No.

CEREAL HARVEST ESTIMATES

SOUTH AUSTRALIA — SEASON 1964-65

The information given in this bulletin is based on reports from 5,000 farmers whose crops exceed 50 per cent of the cereals grown in the State.

AREAS AND YIELDS (SUMMARY)

Reports last March indicated that farmers intended to sow approximately 2,838,000 acres of wheat, 1,221,000 acres of barley, and 1,188,000 acres of oats. The latest estimate of areas actually sown is 2,797,000 acres to wheat - a small decrease from the intended area, 1,108,000 acres to barley - approximately 91% of that intended, and 871,000 acres to oats - approximately 73 per cent of that intended.

The estimated yields of wheat, barley, and oats in the 1964-65 harvest are 53,547,000 bushels of wheat at an average of 19.53 bushels per acre, 27,153,000 bushels of barley at an average of 25.42 bushels per acre, and 9,207,000 bushels of oats at an average of 21.82 bushels per acre. The estimated yield of wheat is only 0.4 million bushels less than the record yield of nearly 54 million bushels in 1963-64.

The estimated total yield of wheat, barley and oats in 1964-65 is 89,907,000 bushels, 2,450,000 bushels more than the yield of 87,457,000 bushels in 1963-64 but 10,200,000 bushels less than the record yield of 100,107,000 bushels in 1960-61.

Estimates indicate that in 1964-65 the yield per acre of wheat is approximately two bushels per acre higher than the average of 17.36 bushels obtained during the ten seasons 1954-55 to 1963-64 inclusive. The yield per acre of barley is approximately five bushels higher than the ten year average of 20.62 and that for oats more than six bushels higher than the average for the same period of 15.79.

TABLE 1 - ESTIMATED CEREAL HARVEST : SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1964-65.

Crop	Area		Yield	
	Total Sown	Sown for Grain	Total	Per Acre
	'000 acres		'000 bushels	bushels
Wheat	2,797	2,742	53,547	19.53
Barley	1,108	1,068	27,153	25.42
Oats	871	422	9,207	21.82
Field peas	34	33	530	16.06
			'000 tons	tons
Cereal hay	138	-	211	1.53

SEASONAL CONDITIONS

Although sufficient rain was received early in April to enable farmers to proceed with seed-bed preparations, a very dry period of almost three weeks in May seriously delayed seeding operations. However, a good general rain at the end of May allowed seeding to proceed and with following rains in June crops were sown in the main cereal districts, but seeding in some areas was not completed until July. In July, above average rainfall was received in all districts except the Murray Mallee, causing water-logging in some of the Hills and Lower South Eastern districts. Strong

winds in August damaged crops in parts of the Western, Northern and Murray Mallee areas and in some cases damage was so severe that reseeding became necessary. September brought favourable conditions with very good rains, and above average yields seemed assured, but after the State-wide rains in November diseases became evident in some crops while others had been affected by strong winds.

Preliminary figures for average rainfall over agricultural areas for the period April - November 1964 total 15.96 inches. For the same period, the mean for 59 years ended 1963 is 12.76 inches.

CEREAL HARVESTS 1960-61 to 1964-65

Tables 2 to 5 show details of the estimated harvest for crops of wheat, barley, oats, and hay for 1964-65 compared with the actual harvests for the four previous seasons.

WHEAT

The area sown to wheat for grain in 1963-64 and the area estimated for 1964-65 are the largest since 1938-39 when 3,080,000 acres were sown.

TABLE 2 - WHEAT: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	ESTIMATE 1964-65
Total area sown	'000 acres	2,027	2,270	2,645	2,849	2,797
Area sown for grain	'000 acres	1,969	2,229	2,595	2,802	2,742
Yield	'000 bushels	46,396	33,854	38,339	53,971	53,547
Yield per acre	bushels	23.56	15.19	14.77	19.26	19.53

BARLEY

The estimated area sown to barley for grain for 1964-65 is approximately 490,000 acres less than the record area of 1,556,000 acres sown in the 1960-61 season.

TABLE 3 - BARLEY: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	ESTIMATE 1964-65
Total area sown	'000 acres	1,588	1,294	1,088	1,165	1,108
Area sown for grain	'000 acres	1,556	1,271	1,053	1,123	1,068
Yield	'000 bushels	42,233	21,292	18,005	24,337	27,153
Yield per acre	bushels	27.15	16.75	17.10	21.67	25.42

OATS

The estimated yield per acre of 21.82 bushels has been exceeded only twice in recent years; the record yield per acre being 24.93 bushels in 1958-59.

TABLE 4 - OATS: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	ESTIMATE 1964-65
Total area sown	'000 acres	907	630	839	956	871
Area sown for grain	'000 acres	512	324	416	501	422
Yield	'000 bushels	11,478	4,391	5,770	9,149	9,207
Yield per acre	bushels	22.41	13.57	13.88	18.27	21.82

CEREAL HAY Estimates given in this bulletin of the production of cereal hay relate only to areas specifically sown for the production of hay and the yield from those areas. Additional hay is cut from areas sown for grain, and in most years the total quantity of cereal hay produced has proved to be considerably greater than the estimated quantity shown in these bulletins.

TABLE 5 - CEREAL HAY: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	ESTIMATE 1964-65
Area sown	'000 acres	219	125	174	196	138
Yield	'000 tons	352	156	216	259	211
Yield per acre	tons	1.61	1.26	1.24	1.32	1.53

FIELD PEAS It is estimated that the area of field peas planted for grain during the 1964-65 season was 33,000 acres. The estimated yield is 530,000 bushels representing an average of 16.06 bushels per acre. In the 1963-64 season 490,000 bushels were obtained from 30,000 acres. Record production of 633,000 bushels (20.75 bushels per acre) was achieved in 1956-57.

D.L.J. AITCHISON

DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

Commonwealth Bureau of Census & Statistics,
ADELAIDE. S.A.
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